

Gun trouble

Cushing faces firearms charges

By GateHouse News Service

Duxbury's recreation director is facing gun-related charges.

Police Chief Mark DeLuca said Gordon Cushing, who is also the town's high school varsity basketball coach, is being charged with seven counts of possession of a firearm without an FID card, one count of possession of a sawed-off shotgun and seven counts of improperly storing a firearm. Cushing was due to be arraigned Tuesday in Plymouth District Court, but the arraignment date was postponed to Nov. 25, the court clerk's office said.

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DeLuca said Cushing's wife went to the Duxbury police station and sought an emergency restraining order against him Sept. 1, and the order was granted over the phone by an on-call judge. Sept. 1 was Labor Day. Kingston police went to the Cushings' home on Tremont Street to serve the emergency restraining order, DeLuca said.

According to DeLuca, Duxbury police officers were not available to serve the order because a tribute and other services were being held for Melvin Dyer, a Duxbury officer who was killed in the line of duty.

DeLuca said that the restraining order included surrendering any firearms, and that police took

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seven rifles.

"He was asked to surrender his FID (firearm identification) card, and he had no FID card," DeLuca said.

Cushing said Tuesday that he was not at the home on Tremont Street Sept. 1, and was called to the police station regarding the restraining order. Cushing said that he did have an FID card and took it to the police station, but that police told him it had expired.

He and his wife have been in the process of getting a divorce for about a year, and he has not

lived in the house since June," Cushing said.

Cushing also said the emergency restraining order was overturned Sept. 2 when he and his wife appeared in Plymouth District Court. On the advice of his attorney, Jeffrey Beckerman, he said he could not comment at length.

"I think that when all the facts come out in the case it will be shown a little different than what is out there right now," Cushing said. "This is a family matter, and it is devastating on all levels," personal and professional.

Cushing has been the town's

recreation director for 19 years. He has been Duxbury High School's head varsity basketball coach for nine seasons.

Duxbury Town Manager Richard MacDonald said Tuesday that he was aware of gun-related charges against Cushing, and that DeLuca had informed him. MacDonald said he could not comment on the situation surrounding the charges against Cushing, but did say that Cushing was still the town's recreation director.

Duxbury Superintendent of Schools Susan Skeiber could not be reached for comment.